

The Arizona BEEHIVE

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Serving Arizona Members of
The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

FAR AND WIDE *We Tell the Father's Story*

BETTER
THROUGH
THE

EAST VALLEY'S **INSPIRE ENTERTAINMENT** TO OPEN NEW COMPLEX

By Merry Gordon

Michael Sackett and his creative colleagues want to inspire you.

The CEO of Arizona's IN-SPIRE Entertainment is changing lives for the better through the arts—and after half a decade in the East Valley, the performing arts complex is ready to expand.

INSPIRE's new Gilbert studio, located at the intersection of Baseline and Greenfield, is slated to be finished in the fall.

Sackett and his team hope to take on more students in the 14,000-square-foot performing arts facility, which will feature seven large dance studio spaces, as well as

Continued on pg. 3

INSPIRE
Entertainment

Photo courtesy of INSPIRE Entertainment

A rendering of INSPIRE's new performing arts complex in Gilbert.



TOP 5

TYPES OF CONSUMER FRAUD COMPLAINTS IN ARIZONA

#1

VEHICLE SALES
REPAIRS &
RENTALS

#2

TELEMARKETING &
PHONE SCAMS

#3

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
(i.e. internet service
providers, cellphones,
TV, bundling)

#4

MORTGAGE &
REAL ESTATE

#5

INSURANCE SERVICE
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(i.e. home warranties)

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a preschool, a
dancewear boutique
and a cafe.

INSPIRE has been working with young performers since 2014, even before the group had the performance space to do so. At their current Mesa and Gilbert campuses, they offer programs in theatre, dance and music, naturally, but also in tumbling, voice, piano and music video production. Students enjoy a curriculum-based, music-infused preschool and afterschool programs, and for adults, INSPIRE hosts some adult dance classes and a fitness club.



Photo courtesy of
INSPIRE Entertainment

INSPIRE focuses on the whole performer, giving students not only performing arts training but also poise that will serve them in any field.

“The idea,” says chief marketing officer Eric Sackett, also a teacher and director in the studio, “is to provide anyone in the arts with the tools that would help them to achieve their own end goals in performance.” He says that INSPIRE wants to create a lifestyle in which parents can take their own performance classes next door to their children, eat at the cafe, pick up dance supplies in the boutique—

“everything
all in one place.”

INSPIRE Entertainment is the brainchild of Michael Sackett, Eric’s big brother. After beginning in BYU’s musical theatre program, Michael switched majors a number of times and

eventually graduated with a degree in geography with an emphasis in travel and tourism, of all things. Throughout his mission and early adulthood, music and performance continued to pull at him even while he pursued what he

calls a full-time “adult” job at U.S. Airways. In 2014, Michael, dismayed that his creative life was limited to just a few performances a year, put out feelers for like-minded people

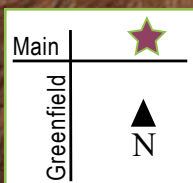
Continued on pg. 6

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contents

ON THE COVER

The Mesa Arizona Temple Family Discovery Center prepares to open with *Deseret Book and Sweet Treat!* (Image courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.)

- 1 The Arts**
Inspire Entertainment
- 8 Famous Family Names**
The Riggs Family
- 10 Sweet Retreat**
BYU Creamery at Deseret Book
- 12 Relationships**
Fathers and Mothers
- 14 Prep Your Missionary**
Prep for Safety
- 16 Come Follow Me**
What and Where is Zion?

- 17 Grace Notes**
The Sound of Music
- 18 New Podcast**
Come Towards Delight
- 19 Spring Cleaning**
Healing and Space for Peace
- 20 Beehive Book Review**
Jesus Said "Come Follow Me"
- What's Cooking**
Copycat Costco Chicken Bakes
- 21 Community Outreach**
Free Webinars from Attorney General's Office
- 22 Family History**
Gathering Israel

- 23 Jerusalem**
At The Wall
- 24 5 for \$25**
Social Distance Activities
- 25 Community Services**
Business Directory
- 26 NAFFA Open House**
Native American Fathers & Families Association
- 27 Just Serve**
Child Crisis Arizona
- Valley Temples**
Schedules & Updates

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Interesting how life circles about. In the beauty business back in the day, we joked about how tomorrow's hairstyles will come from today. And today's styles, from yesterday. It seems the same type of cycle has manifested itself in the magazine business. While recently reading an industry trade website, I came across the following quote:

"Print is very welcoming. For a while, people were reading magazines online, but I have since heard a lot of people have gotten bored with that. A lot of people are working from home now and they're on their computers all day. When they want to relax they don't want to sit in front of a screen again and read. They want to go sit in their backyard in their favorite chair with a print copy, their favorite beverage alongside them, and enjoy a magazine,"

**Richard Lentinello...*

I have always been a fan of hard copy. I still use my quad when reading and marking my scriptures. I use a Franklin Covey day planner. And I collect books. The reason being, I had convinced myself, was that I am an "old" guy, living life with a "Should I hang onto the old? Should I grab onto the new?" philosophy. As the world has transitioned to digital everything over the past decade or so, it seems to now be somewhat swinging back to tangible.

Funny, that ...

The Arizona Beehive has certainly entered the digital world. We of course have our website, ArizonaBeehive.com, that features each article we publish. We also publish each issue on the ISSUU app, where one may read thousands of magazines, including ours, page by page, on their mobile devices. These digital options have been invaluable during the pandemic as many distribution points for our hard copies have stopped offering magazines or have completely gone out of business.

But, as we rise from the ashes of Covid-19, I expect that many of the places that offered our magazine will once again welcome a fresh stack every two months. Upon which you may dive in, pick up your own vibrant copy, sit in your favorite chair with an ice cold glass of lemonade or diet caffeine-free soda, and once again enjoy the tangible experience of paging through a hard copy of The Arizona Beehive. Thank you for reading...



Michael O'Brien, Publisher

*Mr. Magazine. <https://mrmagazine.wordpress.com/2021/04/09/krankshaft-a-new-automotive-magazine-that-believes-in-the-art-of-storytelling-high-quality-collector-car-content-the-mr-magazine-interview-with-richard-lentinello-owner-pu/>

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who wanted to form a chorus. It is said that “by small and simple things are great things brought to pass,” and when six people showed up to audition, INSPIRE was born.

Over time, Michael’s big

WE WANT
TO BUILD
OUR STUDENTS AS
PERFORMERS IN ORDER
TO USE THEIR GIFTS FOR
GOOD, TO HELP THE
COMMUNITY, THEIR
NEIGHBORS, AND
THEIR FAMILIES

idea became a non-profit, and then the East Valley’s premier performing arts institute. The school grew over the years from 75 students when they finally opened their first studio in 2015 to the roughly 700 they accommodate now, necessitating the expansion.

About two years in, Michael met LaDawn Pettit, a fellow performer. Pettit, who has been with the INSPIRE team ever since, runs the day-to-day operations. She also oversees hiring and development. Her musical background includes singing with Life of Christ productions and working with Rob Gardner’s Spire Chorus in Lamb of God.

The two surrounded them-

selves with other creatives, and INSPIRE now boasts a core of about seven instructors with nearly fifty contracted rotating teachers and staff members.

INSPIRE prides itself on its individualized approach to the arts. The INSPIRE mission is “to mold and refine individuals to become their best selves through the performing arts,” which happens through “professional, value-based training in a positive, safe, and uplifting environment.” The directors know that many of the kids with whom they work won’t pursue careers in the arts—



Photo courtesy
of INSPIRE
Entertainment

Michael Sackett,
the CEO and
founder of the East
Valley’s INSPIRE
Entertainment.

INSPIRE
Entertainment

and that, says Eric Sackett, is just fine by them because the point of the arts is not the performance, it’s the person.

“I get it. So many people grow up and don’t get to perform,” he says. “They grow up, become moms and dads, move on to other things, and don’t have a chance to use that beautiful creative muscle anymore.”

INSPIRE wants to build both a theatre and an audience so that everyone involved, whether as a performer or patron, has opportunities to inspire their fellow community and the world.

This mindset, Eric says, is the key to their growth: “We want to build [our students] as performers in order to use their gifts for good, to help the community, their neighbors, and their families. This is why people continue to come to us.”

To that end, INSPIRE’s vision is to “create an ecosystem of performers who seek to uplift.”

INSPIRE’s vision goes far beyond entertainment in the Valley. In response to a profound experience in which he met a little girl at a Chinese orphanage, Michael Sackett “realized he needed to do more”—and so he formed INSPIRE: music.service.hope (IMSH), the nonprofit arm of the performing arts studio.

Through IMSH, Michael coordinates large-group international music service tours to underdeveloped countries. Previous tours have included Costa Rica, Belize, Columbia and the Dominican Republic. Their mission is “to lift hearts, strengthen minds, and inspire each other through music, education, and service,” and they use the arts as a vehicle for service and connection. Performers experience cultural immersion alongside service projects.

In spite of the pandemic, they are “moving forward with faith,” Eric says with a laugh, in the hopes of three summer service tour offerings this year: Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic

and Fiji.

“Barring some regulation that we can’t overcome, the plan is to still continue to do those tours,” says Eric. “These countries are suffering far worse than we are. If we can get there and build playgrounds, homes, water towers, take supplies—we want to get that done.”

Also through INSPIRE: music.service.hope, two choruses, one in Arizona and one in Utah, use their voices to proclaim the divinity of Jesus Christ.

The nonprofit has an endowment fund they are hoping to grow in order

to serve performers who might otherwise find paying for tuition difficult. They are looking for people to make yearly contributions so that every student who needs it can benefit from the fund.

“We’ve partnered first with a lot of foster care and sex trafficking programs that help kids in need,” Eric Sackett says, “but we’ve also opened that door to studio families and hope to continue to do so.”

INSPIRE’s Mesa studio will close in May, Eric says, with the old Gilbert studio following when the new complex is opened and both studios can funnel their talent there.

And they haven’t ruled out expansion in the future, either.

In a few years, they are hoping for a Queen Creek area studio and an enlargement of their tour offerings. Since the arts benefit everyone, Eric says, there is always room for growth, and there are always others to uplift.

“It’s not awkward to call this a calling. We feel a great desire stirring within us. We have been blessed with the arts, and we can bless others.”

For information on classes or how to contribute to INSPIRE: music.service.hope, visit <https://inspireent.com/>, call 480-830-5955, or find them on social media.



Photo
courtesy of
INSPIRE Entertainment

One of INSPIRE’s dance company teams.

★★★
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Mesa Easter Pageant Book

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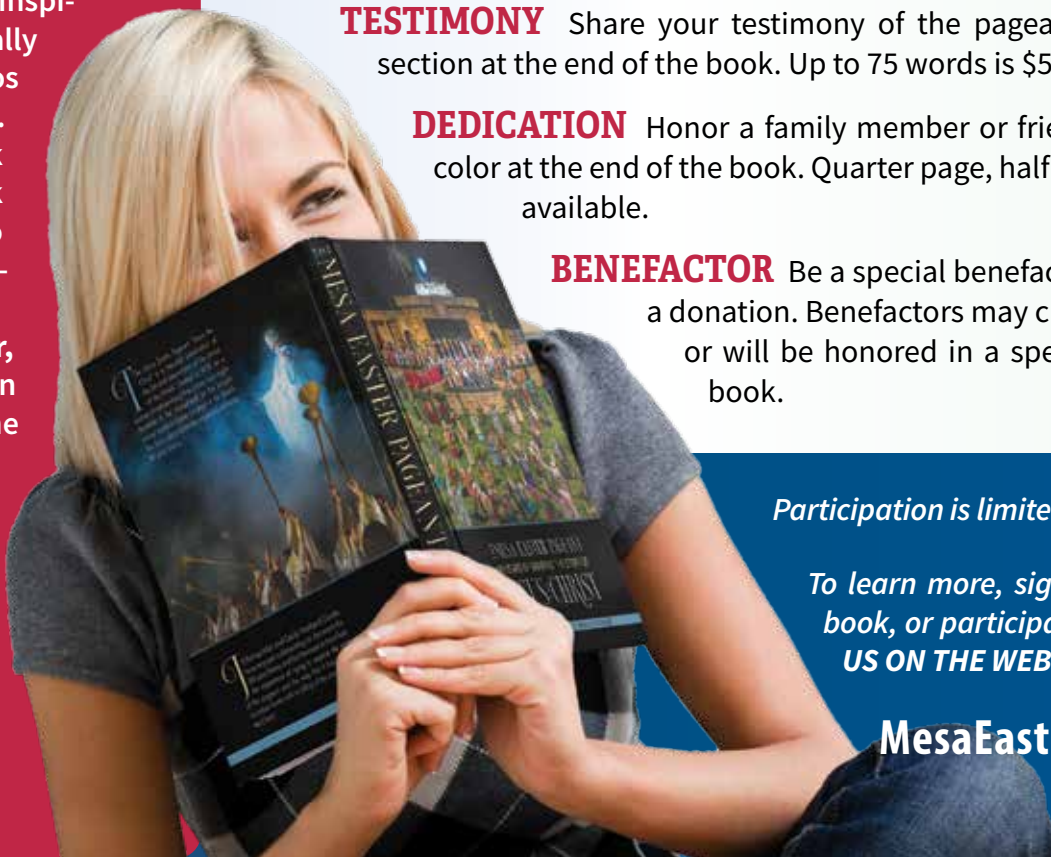
For every reader, this book provides an up-close and personal view—a witness of just why so many were drawn to dedicate time, talents and countless resources to share the message of Jesus the Christ.

The writers of the Mesa Easter Pageant book are extending a limited opportunity to participate in the production of this keepsake book. Your contribution helps make this book affordable to countless many who will cherish it forever. Participate in the following ways:

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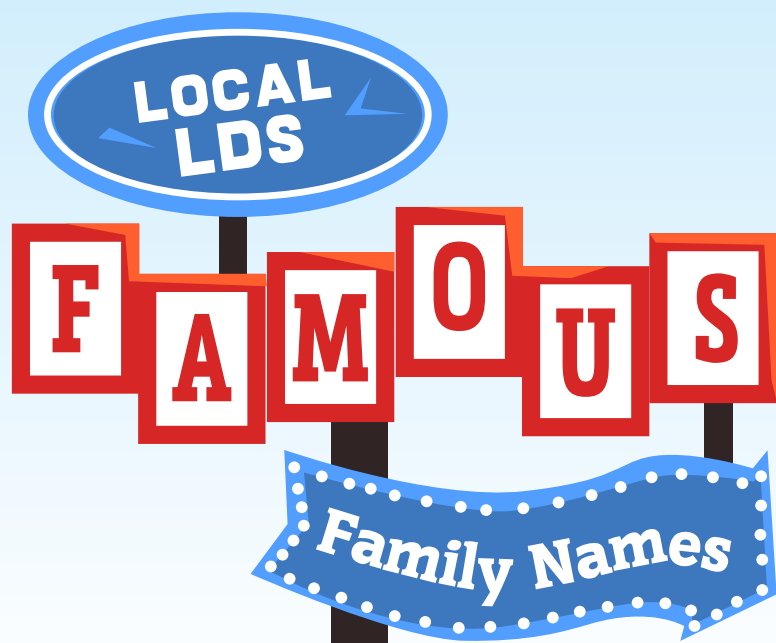
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The East Phoenix Valley is replete with LDS pioneer heritage. The names of pioneer families adorn our streets, buildings and schools.

We often casually pass by a geographic location without considering the history of the family for which the location was named, or why the family name was used. The inquiring minds of Arizona Beehive readers want to know!

In each issue we now present the history of one "famous" Mormon family name. We hope you enjoy learning about these families, and encourage you to reach out to The Arizona Beehive with ideas for families to feature in the series.

By Katherine Ogden

The Riggs Family

The Riggs Family: A Part of Southeast Valley History

The surname Riggs comes from the Old English word *rigge*, which means ridge. Going back to the Middle Ages, a family who dwelled on or near a ridge would be surnamed Rigg, Rigge, Rigges, Ryges or Riggs, of which the last is the form most generally used in America today.

John Riggs was the first English-born member of the family to come to America around 1600. Nine genera-

tions later, in the early 1920s, Benjamin Lang Riggs found himself in the flatter, dustier Chandler area, where he remained for the rest of his life. Due to an injury at age 4, Benjamin had lost the fingers on his right hand and the forefinger on his left, but this damaging event never ever left him an invalid.

The Riggs Family farm was located at Gilbert Road and Chandler Heights Road. Benjamin, also known as 'Grampie' to his grandchildren, farmed cows and grew cotton & alfalfa, while raising their six children, Elaine, Lyle, Noble, Myrtle Melba, Reid and Colleen, alongside his wife, Myrtle. They were pioneers in cattle ranching and farming in the southeast Valley.

Reid and Lyle both worked the farm with their father. He turned a piece of land into a thriving ranching and cotton farming enterprise and instilled in family members an appreciation of the value of work. They all watched Chandler grow from a small farming community of around 2,000 people to its present size.

"When you are in the service of your fellow man, you are only in the service of your God." You will see that the Riggs families have trained their children with this motto," says his granddaughter, Metzie Lamoreaux Phelps.

Besides farming, Benjamin Riggs was also the main "zanjero," a water gate opener and closer, for that side of the Valley. Many of the old time farmers relied on him to get water to their

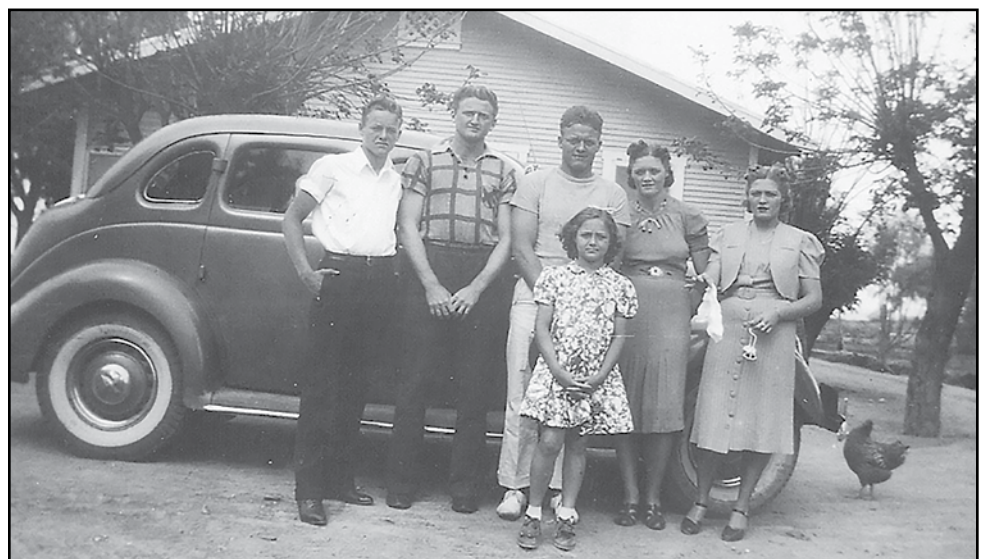


Photo courtesy of Metzie Phelps

Five of the six Riggs children, from left to right: Reid, a family friend, Noble, Colleen, Elaine and Melba.



Benjamin Riggs.

Photo courtesy of Metzie Phelps

fields.

The star on the water tower at the Riggs Brothers Farm shone for its very last holiday season in 2004. Grandsons Dan and his brother Darnall finally sold the farm founded by their grandfather after farming proved unprosperous to make way for the progress of the housing market that seemed to be growing by leaps and bounds.

Riggs Road has become the main landmark memory for the family's roots in the East Valley. Originally

named Superstition Road, the road was later renamed for the family who had played such a large role in the original settlement of the area.

There is also a neighborhood name devoted to the memory of the Riggs Farm—the Riggs Ranch Meadows housing development that sits across from where that farm's water tower once stood.

For more Riggs family information and memories, look up Benjamin Riggs at Familysearch.org.



Photo courtesy of Metzie Phelps

Benjamin & Myrtle Riggs.

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Sweet Retreat!

Now Scooping BYU Creamery Ice Cream At The New Deseret Book Mesa Location

By Merry Gordon

Something sweet is coming to Mesa late this spring.

The Mesa Temple has been under renovation for years now, and excitement is mounting as the project nears completion. Refurbishment goes beyond the temple, too. Deseret Book closed its longtime Mesa Drive location in March, and on April 1st—no joke!—an expanded bookstore opened on Main Street, complete with a distribution center and convenient underground parking next to the new Family Center.

But for BYU alums (or anyone who has ever spent time in the Provo area) one of the best Mesa bookstore upgrades will be the addition of a Sweet Retreat, which will offer BYU

come into the store sometimes talking about having their first date or getting engaged at the Dairy Queen outside of the temple. We're hoping they'll have those experiences here in time. It's such a cute place!"

Since 1949, the BYU Creamery has served the campus's dairy needs. They've since expanded their offerings to cover basic diner fare and, of course, their famed ice cream. Favors like Graham Canyon (graham cracker ice cream, graham cracker swirl, chocolate covered honeycomb) and Fluffernutter (vanilla ice cream, peanut butter swirl, graham cracker swirl, peanut butter cookie pieces, marshmallows) have been filling the bellies



Photo by StockSnap from Pixabay

Deseret Book's Sweet Retreat will offer BYU Creamery hand-scooped ice cream.

chilly concoction designed specifically for Deseret Book.

"No other Deseret Book will have this flavor," says Breon.

This year of all years, we've all screamed for ice cream. According to a recent Y Magazine article, half-gallon ice cream purchases at BYU were up a whopping 68% because of the pandemic. As people stayed at home during quarantine, they were more likely to bring in comfort foods. Now, Deseret Book's Mesa location hopes, people will be ready to get out for their favorite treats.

With two entrances (one off Main Street and the other from the courtyard

of the Visitors' Center) and a light rail stop in front of the store, dropping by is easy. Comfortable seating includes tables and booths to plug in devices, and the Sweet Retreat will offer patio and other outdoor options, as well.

"In Utah they're not familiar with the heat and how bad Arizona gets in the summer," Breon laughs. "We'll have to talk the building into adding misters!"

She can't wait to see guests chill and be chilled with the Creamery's hand-scooped delights. "It really is something special," she says.

Visit the Sweet Retreat this spring at 445 E. Main Street in Mesa.



Photo by Jan Vašek from Pixabay

Mesa's renovated Deseret Book is scooping up something sweet this spring.

Creamery products.

Based on Deseret Book's downtown Salt Lake City store, which offers Crumbl Cookies, Arizona's Sweet Retreat will begin with famous BYU Creamery treats and possibly expand to cookies and other offerings, says Lori Breon, who manages the new Mesa bookstore.

"During renovation [of the temple area]," Breon says, "they got rid of the Dairy Queen. This is our replacement."

She hopes it will hold the same place in people's hearts: "People

of the spiritually-fed citizens of Provo for years.

Some tongue-in-cheek flavor names are specific to the Latter-day Saint community, like Bishop's Bash (chocolate ice cream, caramel swirl, roasted pecans) and LaVell's Vanilla, named for BYU's legendary football coach, LaVell Edwards.

The BYU appeal is obvious: "Lots of people have gone there," says Breon, "and are familiar with the favorites."

Breon is hoping that one of those favorites will be the brand new flavor the Creamery is unveiling this spring, a

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Photo by Marianne Overton Photography
Dr. Paul Sandstrom & Heather with children and their spouses, together at Carlsbad, California.

Lead Me, Guide Me...

The Importance of Fathers and Mothers

By Heather Sandstrom

It's so important that parents lead, guide and walk beside our children. Many loud voices in today's world are trying to

define who children are and what they should or should not believe. Children in our church sing, "I am a child of God and He has sent me here, has

given me an earthly home, with parents kind and dear." Then they go on to sing, "Lead me guide me, walk beside me, help me find the way. Teach me all that I must do to live with Him someday."

President Russell M. Nelson taught that we need to be engaged in "intentional parenting." These are perilous times, but God knew this would happen and He has provided us with tools—the scriptures, Come, Follow Me and divine counsel—to be awesome parents and help our children and grandchildren navigate their lives to become amazing adults. Our Heavenly Father wants our children to succeed. We have received the gift of the Holy Ghost and we can pray for guidance to know how to teach our children: "It will show unto you all things what ye should do." As we develop the process of learning, "the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth in unto the hearts of the children." I know we'll be helped when we're trying to teach them. President Ezra Taft Benson gave some great tips for mothers and fathers, and they really work, even in today's crazy world.

FATHERS:

- Give a father's blessing to your children.
- Help direct family prayers, daily scripture study and home evenings.
- Attend church meetings together as a family.
- Go on daddy-daughter dates & father-son outings with your children.
- Build traditions of family vacations, trips and outings.
- Have regular one-one-one visits with your children. Let them talk.
- Teach your children to work and the value of working toward a goal.
- Encourage good music, art and literature in your homes.
- As distances and circumstance allow, regularly attend the temple.
- Have your children see your joy in service to the church.

Children are our most precious gifts from God. So many sacrifice so much to bear children or adopt children and raise them. Being parents should be our highest priority in life. I believe the greatest job that any man or woman will ever do will be teaching, nurturing, rearing and loving our children. Having young children is not easy. Many days are difficult and take a lot of patience. It is so worth the time, effort, exhaustion and hard work to see your children grow up and be happy and successful.

MOTHERS:

- Be at the crossroads.
- Be a real friend.
- Read to your children.
- Pray with your children.
- Have weekly home evenings.
- Be together at mealtimes.
- Read scriptures daily.
- Do things as a family.
- Teach your children.
- Truly love your children.

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

Missionary Safety Preparation

By Allison Beckert

Serving a mission can be frightening, especially when serving in places that are very different from home. Families often worry for the physical safety of their missionaries, but some awareness



Photo by Pixabay

Serving among strangers is what Christ did when on earth and what missionaries do now. This comes with some inherent risk, but missionaries are not without support and resources.

and preparation can help build confidence in missionaries and their families.

Before making any decisions or giving into worry, know every mission is different. Circumstances can also vary drastically between areas within a mission. Even if you or a family member or friend has spent time in that area as either a resi-

dent or a visitor, take time to review the local and mission-generated guidelines. The lifestyle and reach of missionaries differ from that of residents, tourists or other visitors. Local and regional leadership has keys for the stewardship of the area and can advise with special insight on safety measures.

Do not bring, send, or obtain weapons for personal use on the mission, regardless of training or prowess. These are against missionary rules and may jeopardize travel arrangements and delivery of pack-



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ages. Many families are concerned about safety, so ask specifically what is and is not allowed before looking for safety equipment or tools to avoid having items lost, stolen or confiscated. Guidance from mission leaders may allow personal defense items or additional security measures to assigned living arrangements.

A mission is a spiritual endeavor, and as such, even physical concerns are helped by spiritual means. The greatest all-purpose resource available to missionaries is the Spirit. Cultivate faith in the power of spiritual guidance in times of stress and danger. There are stories in the scriptures, general conference, church history, and the Liahona of faith and inspiration in the face of trials of all kinds. The Spirit supplements our natural instincts, skills and knowledge in the most crucial moments.

Most risky situations can be avoided with precautions for safety and an awareness of defensive measures. Self-defense classes are a wise choice for anyone, and if during the preparation period an opportunity presents itself, the skills learned there would be a valuable resource. It does not hurt to be smart about security in living spaces, cars and in public places. Spotting red-flag behaviors and patterns can help missionaries know when and how to leave a potentially dangerous situation. A familiar phrase applies here: the glory of God is intelligence. Knowledge gained can be recalled with the support of the Spirit.

The safety of the Lord's missionaries is important to all members and leaders. One thing to keep in mind if fears for your missionary or your service come up, most stories—exciting or frightening—about experiences in the field are typically a stand-out event in that person's whole mission. Be aware and sensitive to the sources of these stories and their motivations for sharing them.



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Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings assigned in the manual titled *“Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families”* for May and June, comprising Doctrine and Covenants chapters 45-70.

What and Where is Zion?

By Robin Finlinson

Since Old and New Testament times, numerous prophets have spoken of the last days when Zion (or Sion) would be built and then endure a thousand-year period of time known as the Millennium.

What is Zion? It’s the pure in heart, those who let God prevail in their lives. It’s the opposite of Babylon, a term representing wickedness and materialism. The Lord’s work in these last days involves the gathering of the pure in heart from around the globe—out of the terrors of Babylon and into the spiritual and physical safety of Zion.

Geographical locations:

In 1831, it was finally time to pinpoint through revelation to the latter-day Prophet Joseph Smith that the center or capital city of Zion would be in what is currently called Independence, Jackson County, Missouri (D&C 57:1-3). That administrative center would be the New Jerusalem.

The Saints began the enormous assignment of laying the foundation of Zion and were promised that “out of small things proceedeth that which is great” (D&C 64:33).

In April, 1844, Joseph Smith described Zion in a broader sense, saying, “The whole of America is Zion itself from north to south....” The establishment of Zion began first with North America (including Canada), then extended to South America.



The establishment of a Zion society includes volunteering alongside people of other faiths to take care of those in need. Visiting and doing work for senior citizens in our neighborhoods are two examples of countless ways to do that. Original artwork by Tanner Finlinson, age 14.

Organized stakes of Zion (small geographical areas) now dot the world.

Shortly before the Lord’s Second Coming, Zion will be “the only people that shall not be at war one with another” and because of its strength, the wicked will not dare fight against it (D&C 45:69-70).

Over time, during the millennial reign of the Messiah personally, Zion will expand throughout the entire earth.

Zion in the personal sense:

The earth is preparing to receive Him: “For no man has seen God at any time in the flesh, except quickened by the Spirit of God” (D&C 67:11-12), and “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”

(Matthew 5:8).

“Many are called” or welcomed to enjoy the richness of Zion in its present state, but comparatively “few” will be “chosen” to remain when the Lord comes and Zion flourishes in stunning splendor (D&C 58:7-11; Matthew 22:1-14).

Those who will remain are industrious and dependable in their stewardships. They are contrite and forgiving. They learn from others and accept correction when in error: “The meek shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).

Perhaps the greatest miracle is that through Christ’s Atonement, He is able to change our hearts if we sincerely want Him to do so—and the greatest

sign of His power is a changed heart.

What does the establishment of Zion look like now?

For one thing, the push to create such a society is being felt by the pure in heart among all religions and many unaffiliated with any religion.

In Joseph Smith’s day, members of other churches were generally wary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Today, more and more faith groups collaborate with us to feed, clothe, visit and give shelter to those in need (Matthew 25:35-36). Despite cleverly targeted efforts by Satan’s destruction crew, we’re literally constructing Zion together as fellow servants of God.

Grace Notes

Mesa Native Garna Dewitt Randall
Magnifies The Sound of Music

By Emily Jex Boyle

“Grace” fits her well—not only to describe her musical talent, but the way she shares it. Mesa native Garna Dewitt Randall has taught piano students for nearly 60 years and has played the piano for local wards, stakes and communities in Arizona and later in Nauvoo, Illinois, as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, since her youth. Undoubtedly, she has magnified the sound of music in the world.

At seven, she craved music. Remembering her first piano teacher, Nephi Davis, an accomplished pianist and Juilliard award recipient, Garna explains, “I practiced all the time. I wanted to



Photo by Garna Randall

When her mother told Nephi Davis they couldn't continue paying for piano lessons, she remembers his shocking reply. “Garna has talent,” he said. “I will teach her for free.” Hearing this motivated Garna.

play, and I progressed.” Soon, Garna's mother told Davis they couldn't continue paying for lessons. She remembers Davis' shocking reply: “Garna has talent,” he said. “I will teach her for free.” Hearing this motivated Garna. When Davis moved two years later, Garna studied with Alta Standage.

Newly married, Garna and Bert, her husband, hauled her grandfather's upright piano from Mesa to the Randall ranch near Ash Fork. Their home on the lonely range was filled with music.

“The piano wasn't ornate,” Garna explains, “but it did the job.” She taught ten students.

Later at BYU, while Bert studied agriculture economics, Garna audited music classes from Mona Smith on campus. With a young family and ranch life persistence, they worked hard. Garna explains, “You learn to work it out.”

Back in Arizona, the Randalls balanced running the ranch and life in Mesa. When their daughter,

Ronda, exhibited similar musical talent, she studied piano with Joan Woods in Mesa. Garna also taught weekly, often from 5AM to 9PM.

“I loved it!” she says. “Every hour was different. I never got bored! My students became part of my family.” Garna's oldest student, Barbara Greer, was dedicated to practicing. She took lessons for 25 years, a steady student up to 86 years old.

Her teaching approach is built on encouragement and hard work. “Positive teaching is the best thing to do,” Garna says. Practice is a hallmark. She expects daily appointments with the piano. She teaches students to play challenging parts five times before playing the piece entirely: “The only way to learn to play the piano is to practice.” One of her greatest challenges is matching recital pieces to a student's ability and interest. When talented, dedicated students progress to a certain point, she tells them, “You are too close to my level. I have an advanced teacher to recommend to you.”

Garna's family relishes moments sitting at the piano with her. “We love to hear her play,” her daughter, Ronda West, muses. “We coax her into playing pieces she can still play by heart, like ‘Malgueña’ or ‘Frühlingsrauschen,’” pieces she performed in Miss Mesa and Miss Maricopa competitions she won in her youth. Her talent is still inspiring us to keep going.”

Recently I heard a reporter assert the idea of music's generous ability to “unite, heal, support and change a community.” I believe it to be true. We need music and maybe a little practice, as Garna prescribes—now, more than ever.



Photo by Emily Boyle

Garna's family relishes moments sitting at the piano with her. “We love to hear her play,” her daughter Ronda West muses. “Her talent is still inspiring us to keep going.”



Photo by Garna Randall

As a teen, Garna was crowned Miss Mesa as well as Miss Maricopa County.

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Come Toward Delight Icon.

Photo by Mike Gregson

Photo by Public Co via Pixabay
Examples of those who choose what brings real joy and live their authentic selves through adversity teach us valuable lessons for when we reach our dark times.

COME TOWARDS DELIGHT

By Allison Beckert

Mike Gregson's Podcast of Real Voices Sharing Real Stories

Out of all the news and interest stories out there, inspiration is in much shorter supply than life hacks, quick tips, warnings, dire predictions and even shined up platitudes. What would go a long way for healing is real voices sharing real stories, not shying from the realities but not being dragged down by them—examples of the resilient and inspirational.

Mike Gregson created a podcast for just this goal.

As is often shown by his own story and the stories of his guests, great good can come from adversity. Mike started *Come Toward Delight* during the pandemic, when the industry he worked in and so many others took a heavy hit due to lockdowns.

“All I want to do is lift people up,” Mike says in his first episode, and it was his brother who brought “delight” to the brainstorming sessions.

In the first episode of the podcast, Mike shares his

own story. It would not be right to spoil it here, but Mike’s experience is one that has shaped his worldview and that is echoed by the powerfully positive experiences his guests share from their own hard times. Some of the most difficult trials are the ones that seem to come without clear cause or are the direct result of our own choices or the choices made by those close to us. They are also the ones that have fewer vocal advocates and less open discussion, which can double down on the pain for those who live with them. Mike’s story is not one to miss.

Life teaches us lessons in ways that make an impact. No matter a person’s faith or worldview, trials hit hard at our soft points. Mike focuses his microphone on those who meet challenges and come out on the other side with strength and positive drive. Life is messy. Trials affect everyone. Most people live through periods where they are lost or off the healthy and safe track. The guests of *Come Toward Delight* have rebounded from the unthinkable, rising above the burden of expectations and making difficult and powerful changes.

Past podcast guests include Katie Sheets Robertson, who shares her positive compass in the face of an incredible loss connected to Mark Hoffman and the Salamander Letters; Al and Rachel van der Beek, whose unique story of love and music is inspiring and has reached far; and Jason McElwain (J-Mac), who talks with Mike about getting his chance and having his determination and unique view paid back to him in a big way.

New episodes are on the way, and are available online on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or through your favorite podcast service. Episodes run the length of a good conversation, which is about an hour and sometimes more, and are good to the last minute. Subscribe on your favorite platform for updates and announcements from Mike on upcoming guests or events featuring himself or his guests.

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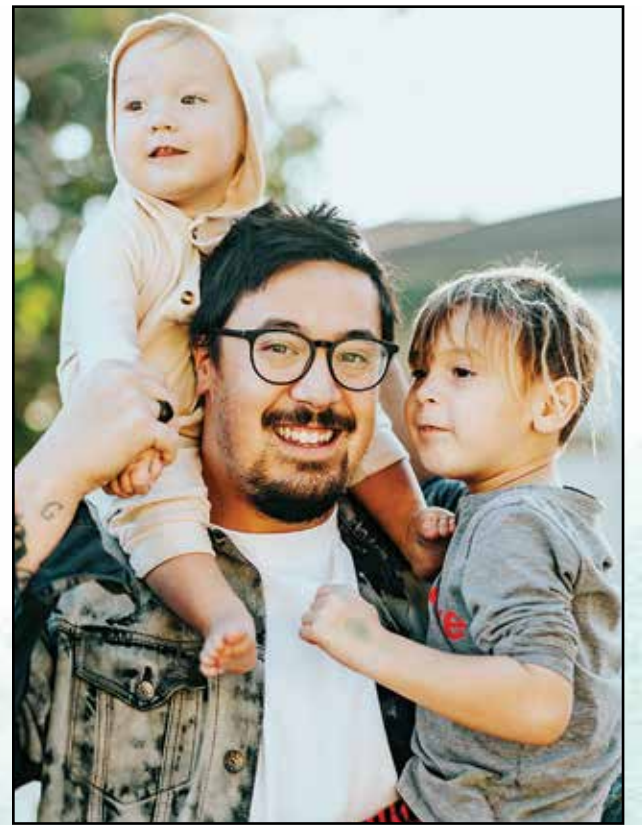
SPRING CLEANING FOR THE SOUL

By Heather Kidder

Cleaning Brings Healing and Space For Peace

Summer is approaching, so let's take some time to reflect on how spring cleaning went. Is your family entirely too busy to hunker down and deep clean? Has your family remained at home and taken a slow and steady

add to your daily routines? Is there something you know that you need to be doing, but you have not committed to the work? You may need to approach spring cleaning in the light of adding the cleansing solution! Reflect on a time of day where you nor-



Nathan Dumalo on Unsplash

Family adds perspective to the busiest of lives.



Arizona springs come with monsoons, cleaning the earth.

Robert Murray on Unsplash

approach? Whatever your circumstances, cleaning brings healing and space for peace. This month, consider reconsidering spring cleaning and frame it in a new light! Instead of scrubbing down the house and throwing out excess belongings, consider power-washing for the soul. Consider these three new perspectives on spring cleaning. Choose an objective and end spring cleaning by centering yourself on what matters most.

1. Detox. Diet detoxing, media detoxing, or relationship detoxing—choose your adventure! Reflecting on toxins that have crept into your daily routines can help you better take care of your emotional wellness. Too much sugar? Scrolling for hours? Bombarded with gossip or negativity? What can you cut out to help you focus on the wonderful people living in your home and in your community? It is easy to get caught up in the negative and get stuck on things and people that are not in your control or who don't even live by you! Try a detox and re-center yourself on the people in your care.

2. Add. When cleaning clothing or dishes, it is imperative to add a cleaning agent. Consider this as you introspect. What soul-cleaning agents can you

mally zone out: binge watching shows, scrolling through social media, playing time-filling games. Try to add value to that time by filling it with an activity that will help you focus on your long-term values.

3. Do Less. In 2007, Sister Julie B. Beck, then the Relief Society General President, gave a general conference address that has stuck with me. It is titled "Mothers Who Know," in reference to the young stripling warriors in the Book of Mormon whose mothers knew the Lord. Wrapping up her message, she asserts that "mothers who know do less." This perspective fuels the final spring-cleaning mindset for all people looking to live with intention. Because you know the Lord and His vision for you, what should you do less of? She explains, "These mothers choose carefully and do not try to choose it all." Those of us who try to take on all opportunities placed in our path, consider spring cleaning what you say "yes" to and live by the Lord's vision for your life by ruthlessly editing out what is not adding value to your days.

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Jesus Said, "Come, Follow Me"

Jesus Said, "Come, Follow Me" is a remarkable book for children of all ages. The book is full of messages of love, guidance and hope, along with beautiful illustrations.

Arizona author and mother Molly McNamara Carter says, "Throughout His ministry Jesus said, 'Come, follow me.' We too can learn to follow Jesus. Learn stories about Jesus in this colorful book perfect for little listeners being introduced to the stories of Jesus' life and ministry with a reminder of Jesus' love for each of us."

The idea for the book popped into McNamara's head one day while working on an unrelated

writing project. "I had the thought pop into my head that there should be a simple book for the littlest primary children engaging them in the new theme for the church curriculum," says McNamara.

"I felt like it was something Heavenly Father wanted written, which was a really special experience," she added.

"One of my favorite moments with this book was when I got to read it to one of my nephews for the first time. Watching his face every time I turned the page was so beautiful. He was so excited to find and point to each picture of Jesus. He quickly caught on to what Jesus said and after I would read 'Jesus said...' he would reply with 'come, follow me!'" says McNamara.

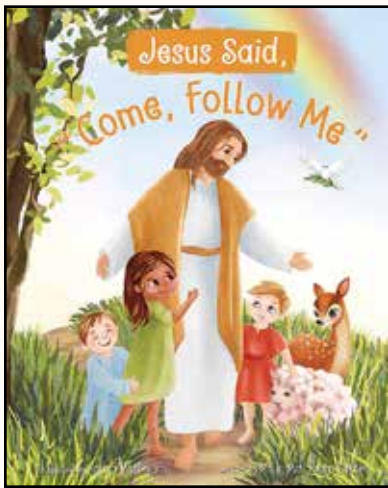
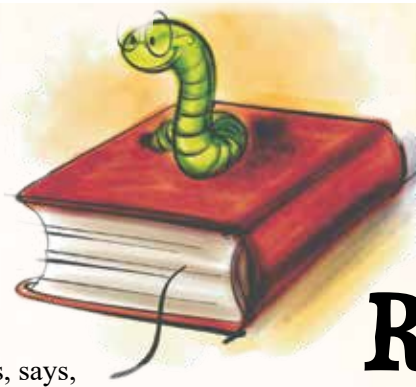


Photo Courtesy of Molly McNamara Carter
Jesus Said, "Come, Follow Me"



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Cindy R. Williams

McNamara, the author of numerous picture books, says, "My favorite page is the one with Jesus sitting with the children around him, but a close second is the page with the children in the park reading this book together. I love all the different children represented. The last few lines of the book are the most profound for me. That Jesus loved and loves all of us, that He cares for us and He wants us to follow him. I love the inclusivity of this. The Savior has love and a place for everyone who wants to follow Him."

Jesus Said, "Come, Follow Me" is available at Deseret Book and online at cedarfort.com, deseretbook.com, barnesandnoble.com, walmart.com, booksamillion.com, seagullbook.com and Amazon.



Photo Courtesy of Molly McNamara Carter
Author Molly McNamara Carter.

What's Cooking?

COPYCAT COSTCO CHICKEN BAKE

By Rachael Fuller

As some of you may have gleaned, I am a huge fan of Costco. In my humble opinion, it is one of the best places on Earth. Where else can you buy furniture, cheese, clothes and chocolate all in one place? Then you add in the food court . . . mind blown! Choose from pizza, salad, ice cream or the gigantic hot dogs.

One of my family's favorites has always been the chicken bakes. Unfortunately, my faux-gourmet family has noticed a distinct decline in the taste and quality of the aforementioned chicken bakes. The only solution to this tragedy of sub-par chicken bakes was to make them ourselves. Thus began our quest for chicken bake greatness! The recipe below is what we came up with through rigorous and thorough testing. I hope you enjoy it as much as my family does, and that it will bring a little of the Costco nostalgia back.



Time to get pinching!

Photo by Rachael Fuller

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 cups cooked chicken (can be grilled, rotisserie, etc.)
- 1 extra large pizza crust (we use Barro's)
- Bacon Bits or cooked chopped bacon
- Mozzarella cheese, fresh or shredded
- Parmesan cheese, shredded
- Colby jack or mild cheddar cheese, shredded
- Caesar dressing
- Italian herb blend
- Garlic salt (if desired)



It's all coming back to me now.

Photo by Rachael Fuller

DIRECTIONS

STEP 1: Pre-heat oven to 425 degrees. Use a pizza stone or baking steel if you have one.

STEP 2: Divide your pizza crust into 6 equal pieces and roll into rectangle-like shapes.

STEP 3: Spread a layer of dressing on each piece of dough, leaving a border with no dressing on each piece.

STEP 4: Place 1/2 cup of chicken, some bacon bits and all the types of cheese on rolled out pieces of dough. This is not exact: add as much or as little of the cheeses, chicken and bacon as you like. As long as you can seal the dough, you will be good.

STEP 5: Once filled, bring pieces of dough together and pinch closed.

STEP 6: Place on parchment paper with the seam side down. If you do not have a pizza stone, you can cook these on a lined cookie sheet.

STEP 7: Brush tops of chicken bakes with more dressing and sprinkle with parmesan cheese, garlic salt and herbs.

STEP 8: Place in oven and bake for 8 minutes or until golden brown.

Enjoy!

Robust Community Outreach

By Tony Gutiérrez

Free Webinar Series Helps Students and Parents Address Difficult Topics

How can you identify bullying? What are the harmful effects of e-cigarettes? What can you do to prevent your loved ones from becoming victims of human trafficking?

All of these difficult questions come with equally difficult answers, answers which the Arizona Attorney General's Office is working to provide

everything came to a halt, our office realized we can't stop educating people. We were able to pretty quickly pivot to offering this stuff electronically."

In 2020, the office conducted more than 240 webinars with more than 9,000 constituents attending. Since 2021 began, as of April 5, the office has provided 90 webinars with nearly 2,000 constituents. Overall, the office has

"Our coordinator sat with her for a good half hour after the presentation. Nobody on our staff is going to shut off their computer at the end if someone needs to talk," said Bennett. "Our staff member listened to her and gave her the information for her and followed up with her. If they don't know something on the spot, they'll let people know and follow up with people."

for visitors to find more help for specific issues. It's also important for parents to be aware of the challenges their children are facing, and while a webinar may not provide all of the answers, it can provide a starting point for a conversation with children.

"It's designed to be a conversation point for parents and children to talk about difficult issues. Every parent



Photo courtesy of Courtney Bennett, Arizona Attorney General's Office

Students raise their hands during a live anti-bullying presentation put on by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

the community through an ongoing series of webinars available through its website, azag.gov.

"We have one of the most robust community outreach teams in the country in terms of Attorneys General offices," said Ryan Anderson, director of communications for the Attorney General's Office. "It's very important to get out there and educate the community, not only about the services our office provides—if you find yourself to be a victim—but also to provide education so individuals don't become a victim."

Before the coronavirus pandemic forced worldwide lockdowns, members of the community outreach team traveled the state to offer advice on a variety of topics. The effort to give these presentations in webinar form began shortly after the pandemic started.

"It's incredibly important to us to be able to educate the public on issues that are important to our office," said Courtney Bennett, director of community outreach and education for the Attorney General's Office. "When

reached 11,000 constituents in the webinars, with approximately 30 percent being students and 50 percent being parents, said Bennett.

The presentations are offered live and pre-recorded for viewers to watch at their convenience.

The webinars were meant to help schools offer a supplemental curriculum for students who were learning from home. As teachers adapted to finding new ways to reach their students, the webinars helped fill that gap, Anderson said.

But there also programs geared to parents and other adults.

"We have age-appropriate curriculums," Anderson said. For example, some topics discussed in a human trafficking webinar for parents may not be appropriate in a children's webinar, "but we do teach human trafficking that is more age-sensitive."

Bennett recalled one teacher in a Spanish language webinar dealing with suicide prevention. One of her middle school students had mentioned the thought of suicide, and she was looking for ways to help.



Photo courtesy of Courtney Bennett, Arizona Attorney General's Office

This screenshot is taken from a consumer protection webinar offered in Spanish by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

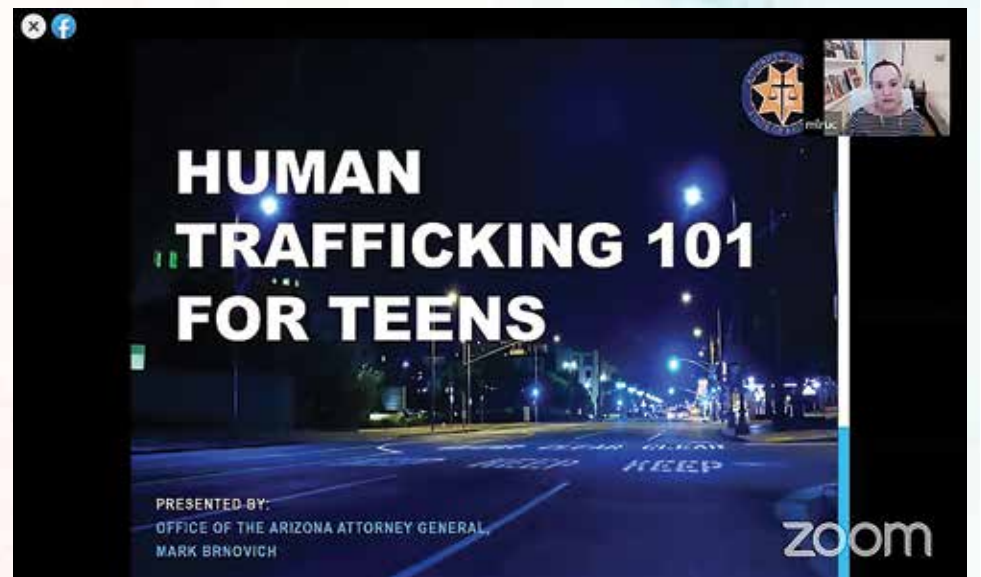


Photo courtesy of Courtney Bennett, Arizona Attorney General's Office

This screenshot is taken from a human trafficking webinar geared towards teenagers offered by the Arizona Attorney General's Office.

The webinars aren't limited to issues affecting children, either. One of the more popular topics is identifying and avoiding consumer frauds and scams. For those who can't attend a live webinar but still have questions, Bennett said her team members respond to voice messages and e-mails within 24 to 48 hours.

Anderson noted emphasized that the Attorney General's Office is not a replacement for counseling, but all of the webinars include links to resources

knows their child best," he said. "If you look at what's happening with opioid addiction, suicide and children who maybe they don't know how to talk to adults or their parents about what they're experiencing, if you're talking about e-cigarettes, hopefully the presentations will start a conversation. Parents will have the tools they need to have what would otherwise be some very difficult conversations."

For more information, visit azag.gov.

Gathering Israel on Both Sides of the Veil

By Alyson Johnson



What is the most important work we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints can do? In 1837 the Prophet Joseph Smith stated, “After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the gospel.” But in 1844, the Prophet Joseph said, “The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead.” So which is it?

Elder David A. Bednar, in a RootsTech 2021 video titled “Gathering Israel is One Work,” (see link at end) says, “Now, someone might ask, ‘Didn’t Joseph remember seven years later what he had said in 1837? The most important thing is to preach the gospel.’ No, the most important thing is to search out our dead.” Elder Bednar answers, “It’s the same thing. It’s one work. All things gathered together in one in Christ.”

The video goes on to show a clip

of President and Sister Nelson from RootsTech a few years ago as they give ideas on how to share the gospel through family history

Sister Nelson makes a prayer suggestion for missionaries that members can also apply: “Please lead us to those whose ancestors have already received the gospel on the other side of the veil, and who are desperate to receive their ordinances.” This is something I prayed for my sons as they served their missions.

When approaching people, President Nelson says to talk about people they love: *Are your grandparents living? Do you know who your great-grandparents are? I have a friend at church who can help you. Is it worth a couple hours of your time to find out who they are?*

Other church leaders have chimed in with great conversation ideas on how to combine these two parts of one great work: *Tell me about your family. Where*

do they come from? I have an app that connects people to their families. Let’s see what we can find.

My own husband had an experience on the golf course where he was able to pull out the Family Tree app and share it with the guys in his foursome. They were visiting from the Montreal area

Family

and my husband had ancestors there, so he used the app to show them the profile of an ancestor who was born in France and emigrated from there to Montreal in the mid-1600s. The foursome now felt a connection to each other.

This story reminds me of something Area Seventy Elder Jay Anderson said at the Chandler South Stake Confer-

ence in March of this year: Family history work is about “connecting and binding ourselves to Heavenly Father, connecting and binding ourselves to our families, and connecting and binding ourselves to each other.”

For more information, see this session from RootsTech: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/session/gathering-israel-is-one-work>

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Photo by Pam Simon from Pixabay

This work is about “connecting and binding ourselves to Heavenly Father, connecting and binding ourselves to our families, and connecting and binding ourselves to each other.”



Photo by suju-foto from Pixabay

“Please lead us to those whose ancestors have already received the Gospel on the other side of the veil, and who are desperate to receive their ordinances,” pleads Sister Nelson.

AT THE WALL

Going Home To The Temple

By Emily Jex Boyle

At the doorway of the pandemic, opportunity knocked for me in a most unusual way. My longtime friend, Amber, invited me to travel last minute to the Holy Land with a group of institute students and their instructor, Lynne Hilton Wilson. In mid-March, we would return home to a much-altered scenario of life.

Tourism slowed to a trickle within days of our arrival. Sites we visited, if open, had few visitors, as did the hushed, store-lined streets of Jerusalem.

On Friday evening, we entered old Jerusalem at the Jaffa gate. Just after sunset, the beginning of the Jewish sabbath, we passed through security and entered the plaza of the Western Wall.

Following the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, the wall has been a place of prayer and yearning. Considered a synagogue, the wall offers inspiration for the Jewish people and keeps the memory of the Temple alive. The plaza wall is nearest the Holy of Holies and stretches

57 meters long and 46 layers high from its base.

At the wall, quiet, soft rain fell. Swallows darted in and out of sight and over us. I stood, staring at the wall. Complete reverence and peace embraced me in this moment. I cried, staring at the ancient blocks of limestone. In this sobering moment, only two other women stood at the wall near me but countless pieces of paper squeezed into cracks and crannies testified of the unseen faithful.

I have revisited this unique moment at the wall over and over in my mind this year. Considering the unexpected temple closures and subsequent limitations, my heart craves to go home to the temple. In our time, we, like the women in the Lord's parable of the ten virgins, had our own brief moment to wait just outside.

I long for a time when temple closures will be a memory rather than reality. I can be grateful for the tutelage of absence, for the opportunity to dive deeper into the scriptures and family history work with my family. I've found meaning in the separation. When



Photo by Amber Stecher

I've revisited this unique moment at the wall over and over in my mind this year. Considering the unexpected temple closures and subsequent limitations due to the pandemic, my heart craves to go home to the temple.

temples open, I hope I always remember the ache. My present self hopes I will be there regularly.

As with any obstacle, physical separation from the temple can be a transforming blessing in our lives. In General Conference, Sister Sharon Eubank recently taught about the resiliency of stone. It is capable of being melted into clear glass, undergoing a state of change. Considering our obstacles as stones, I include her query here to each of us: "How are [we] going to increase [our] faith like

the brother of Jared, so [our] stones can be turned into light?"

Local youth can't wait to be back in the temple, too.

"Not having the opportunity to be in the temple this year has been an eye-opening experience," Madilynn Jackson says. "I did not realize how much I relied on the peace and joy I felt. Without the temple I've been able to reflect and feel more gratitude than ever for the beautiful opportunity to enter the house of God and bring people to Christ."



Photo by Sarah McPhie

Tourism slowed to a trickle within days of our arrival to Israel. Sites we visited, if open, had few visitors, as did the hushed, store-lined streets of Jerusalem.



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5 \$25 FOR

Check out these five great family activities for under \$25 per person - AND they're close to home!

Social Distanced Summer Fun For Frugal Families

By Tony Gutiérrez

As we approach our second round of summer during the pandemic, there are plenty of options to get out and enjoy time with your family while still abiding by recommended guidelines.



McDonald's Ranch. Photo Courtesy of McDonald's Ranch website

#1 MacDonald's Ranch

And on that ranch he had a goat, a pig and a pony, oh my! The founder "wanted to create an atmosphere where the kids could come and play." While there are plenty of long ride and overnight packages that can get pricey, entrance to the ranch is free, and that comes with a petting zoo, games and pony rides for children 10 and younger.

26540 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale

(480) 585-0239

Open: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

macdonaldsranch.com

#2 Bearizona

For those looking to escape the Valley heat for a weekend or day trip, check out Bearizona in Williams, just outside of Flagstaff. The drive-thru safari experience allows families to see the animals from the comfort (and safety) of their own cars, even as one may be walking across the road blocking your way forward. Despite its name, Bearizona isn't limited to bears. There is plenty of wildlife to go around, from big cats to pythons. After driving through the park, get out and see some of the other animals in the walking trails.

1500 E. Route 66, Williams

(928) 635-2289

Adult Admission (13-62): \$25;

Children (4-12): \$15; Seniors (62+): \$23

Open 9 am – 5:30 pm; last car admitted at 4 pm

bearizona.com

#3 Digital Drive-in AZ

Just because movie theaters are temporarily closed due to Covid restrictions doesn't mean you can't go out and enjoy a movie with your family. Digital Drive-in AZ charges \$25 per vehicle to enjoy a family movie. Get there 30 minutes early so you can find a parking spot and bring a meal from home to eat while enjoying the show. You can find a movie schedule on their website.

1901 N. Alma School Rd., Mesa

(480) 308-1515

Admission: \$25 per vehicle

Show Time 6:30 pm

digitaldriveinaz.com



Digital Drive-In.

Photo Courtesy of Phoenix New Times



The Phoenix Zoo.

Photo Courtesy of The Arizona Republic

#4 The Phoenix Zoo

Even with restrictions lifted, families may be looking for activities that allow for proper social distancing. The Phoenix Zoo, with its open space over 125 acres, allows people to learn about and enjoy the animal residents while remaining distant from other patrons. Bring a lunch and have a picnic in one of the many rest areas. Trails will guide you through different areas to see animals from Africa and the tropics, as well as those native to Arizona.

455 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix

(602) 286-3800

Adult Admission (14+): \$25; Children (3-13): \$17

Open 9 am – 5 pm

phoenixzoo.org

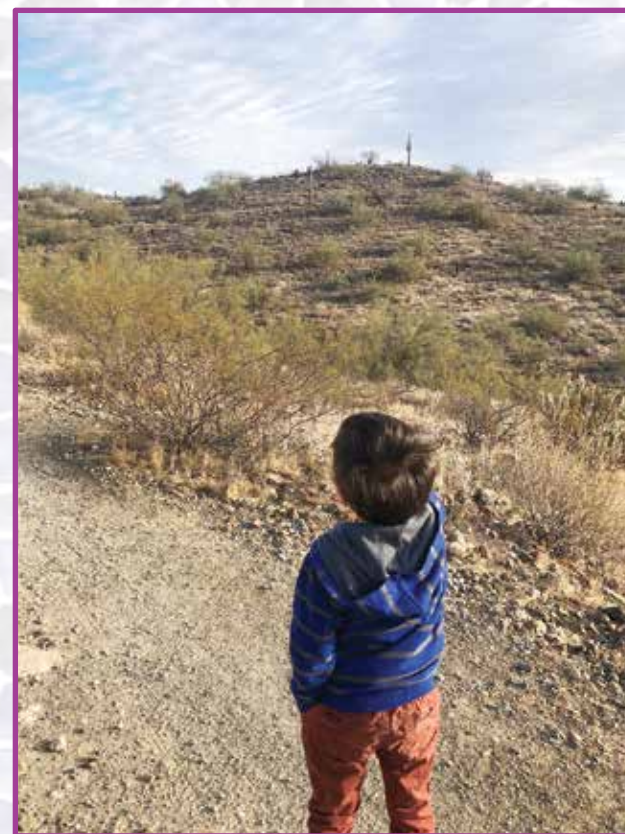


Photo by Tony Gutiérrez

Four-year-old Santiago Gutiérrez looks over a hill while hiking on the Apache Wash Trailhead in North Phoenix with his father.

#5 Morning Hikes, anywhere

What is Arizona known for if not for its hiking trails? When Governor Doug Ducey announced the first round of statewide lockdowns last year, he encouraged Arizonans to develop habits that "increase resilience, such physical activity." There are plenty of options for hikers at all stages, from the seasoned Boy Scout such as myself to the beginner, like my 6-year-old daughter. Bring a blanket and some quick lunches for a picnic. Make sure to drink lots and lots of water!

arizonahikersguide.com

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NAFFA's New Building OPEN HOUSE



By Valerie Steimle

Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA) will be sponsoring an open house to showcase their new building @ 525 West Southern Avenue in Mesa. By enlarging their office space from 4,000 square feet to 14,000 square feet, NAFFA is now able to expand their programs in the Mesa Community Court, reentry and addiction aftercare.

Since 2002, Albert Pooley, founder of the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association (NAFFA), has pushed to strengthen families by promoting responsible fatherhood and motherhood. "NAFFA programs are different from other recovery models", says Pooley, "our programs promote in three primary areas: self-worth, personal identity, and a purpose driven life. We focus on strengthening families, keeping families together and reuniting families." The impact and testimony of NAFFA's three curriculum of *Fatherhood is Sacred*®, *Motherhood is Sacred*, *Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships and Addressing Family Violence and Abuse* can be found at www.nativeamericanfathers.org.

The Open House will be held Friday, May 14, 2021 from 2pm to 6pm. NAFFA will offer tours of the remodeled facility, Native music, dancing and refreshments. For more information, please call 480-833-5007 or see nativeamericanfathers.org



NAFFA's Open House

..... **Friday, May 14, 2021**

**WHERE: 525 West Southern Avenue
Mesa, Arizona 85210**

TIME: 2pm—6pm

**Come join us for an open house
to learn more about our programs,
tour our new facility, watch entertainment,
enjoy refreshments and meet the staff!**



**For more information contact
NAFFA at (480)833-5009 or
email: info@aznaffa.org**

Flyer courtesy of Valerie Steimle



JUSTSERVE

Suffer the Little Children

Child Crisis Arizona Heals Hearts

By Hillary Jade Fevrier

When four-year-old Sarah (names have been changed to protect identity) and her even younger brother, Matt, were found wandering the streets, it was shocking. However, a bigger surprise than seeing the two children alone was learning that there was another even younger baby sister still at their home. The three young children were taken into foster care through a non-profit organization, Child Crisis Arizona. Eventually, all three were adopted and today they are receiving therapy and love to help them move forward.

It's no secret that children play a special role in the world, their bright influence reaching even the darkest places. The Savior said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." Child Crisis Arizona takes this message seriously. Primarily functioning as a foster care organization, Child Crisis Arizona has been helping the most vulnerable children in the Valley, like Sarah and Matt, for decades. The organization is the product of the merging of two long-standing institutions, Crisis Nursery and Child Crisis Center.

Child Crisis Arizona provides a broad range of services, including prevention, intervention and education programs. They offer emergency children's shelters, group homes, counseling services, early childhood education courses, training for foster/adoptive parents and more, all with the aim of creating safe places for children and youth.

People looking to serve during the pandemic are in luck! Child Crisis Arizona offers many ways to get involved. Opportunities include hosting donation drives, linking Child Crisis Arizona to Amazon or Fry's rewards programs, or donating your Arizona Foster Care Tax Credit.

There is no better way to get to



Photo courtesy of Child Crisis Center

Children are an heritage of the Lord.

know an organization than by seeing inside it. While that's not physically possible now, anyone who is interested in learning more about Child Crisis Arizona can take a virtual tour. They offer individual or group scheduling.

If any readers have ever considered changing the world for a child in need, May is National Foster Care Awareness

Month, and there has never been a better time to get involved with Child Crisis Arizona than now. Perhaps this could be the year you are finally able to foster a child in your home. There is a great need for help at this time.

When the Savior visited the Nephites in the ancient Americas, He gathered the children around Him. After praying with them, He blessed them, and He wept. His love for children shows the important role they can have in the world and in our homes. As we follow His example, we will be receptive to and protective of the children and youth in our lives. Some of us may even include another child who may be in want of help and guidance. Child Crisis Arizona has been bringing the sweet influence of these little ones to families for many years, and with support of the Valley, they will be able to do so for years to come.

For more information, visit child-crisisaz.org.



Photo courtesy of Child Crisis Center

There is a very real need for foster care in Arizona.

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Mesa Arizona Temple

101 S. LeSueur, Mesa, AZ, 852014
(480) 833-1211

Temple Closed During Renovation

For excellent sources of updated info regarding renovation work, find Mesa Temple Construction on Facebook, and visit <https://churchofjesuschristtemples.org/mesa-arizona-temple/news/>

Gilbert Arizona and Phoenix Arizona Temples are Now in Phase 2-B:

TEMPLES OPEN FOR LIVING ORDINANCES AND LIMITED PROXY BAPTISMS—Based on First Presidency direction, these temples have resumed limited operations. At this time, all living ordinances and limited proxy baptisms are being scheduled. Ordinances will be performed by appointment only and limited to members residing in a designated geographic area. For these ordinances, the temples will have reduced staff and the number of guests will be limited. To schedule a proxy baptism appointment, please click the "Schedule Now" link below. When the temple for your area is ready to receive appointments, clicking this link will direct you to the scheduling system. To schedule a living ordinance appointment, please send an email to the temple using the link below and include the names of the members, desired ordinance, desired ordinance date, phone numbers, and the best time to contact you. All government guidelines will be observed, including regulations related to travel, gatherings, sanitization, and safety. All patron housing, cafeteria, and clothing services remain closed. Please check the following webpages regularly for updates:

Gilbert AZ Temple: [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/gilbert-arizona-temple?lang=eng&cid=email-\\$cid_1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/gilbert-arizona-temple?lang=eng&cid=email-$cid_1)

Phoenix AZ Temple: [https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/phoenix-arizona-temple?lang=eng&cid=email-\\$cid_2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples/details/phoenix-arizona-temple?lang=eng&cid=email-$cid_2)

Gilbert Arizona Temple

3301 S. Greenfield Rd, Gilbert, AZ, 85297
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LIMITED OPERATIONS AS OF NOV 9, 2020:

2021 Temple Closures

Saturday, 2 October
Monday, 4 October - Monday, 15 November
Wednesday, 24 November - Thursday, 25 November
Friday, 24 December - Saturday, 25 December
Friday, 31 December

Please check <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples> regularly for updates.

Phoenix Arizona Temple

5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Phoenix, AZ 85310
(623) 474-9500

LIMITED OPERATIONS AS OF NOV 9, 2020:

2021 Temple Closures

Monday, 17 May 2021 - Monday, 31 May
Saturday, 2 October
Monday, 1 November - Monday, 15 November
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Please check <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples> regularly for updates.



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